

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

September 6, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dick Englund, Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Clare Petersky, Eastside Friends of Seniors

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Eileen Rasnack who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Dick Englund and Terri Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2, 2012

There was a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The motion was voted on unanimously to approve the minutes.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO ELDER ABUSE (PRESENTATION)

Ms. VonWald introduced Phil Jordan, Project Coordinator, King County Prosecutor's Office; Karen Heeney, Case Management Supervisor and Elder Abuse Grant Coordinator, ADS; and Kathi Church, Elder Abuse Case Manager, ADS.

Phil Jordan stated that he has been with the King County Prosecutors office for three years working with the Elder Abuse Grant. The grant is entitled "Enhanced Training & Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women in Later Life." In the title it states "Women" however it covers everyone. 90% of victims of abuse are females, but specifically with elder abuse, 30% of the victims are men. The grant is inclusive and serves everyone. "Later Life" – the grant covers everyone 50 or older. Their studies have shown that there are many 50-60 yrs. of age who fall through the cracks.

In the NY Elder Abuse Study, it indicates that the abuser relationship to the survivor is: spouse – 26%; own adult children – 39.7%; grandchild – 9.5%; other relatives – 15.1%; paid home ass't - .7%, and other non-relatives – 9.1%.

In the same study they did a “Comparison of Self-Reported Incidence & Documented Case Data”.

	<u>Documented</u>	<u>Self-Reported</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
All forms of abuse	3.24	76	23.5
Financial	.96	42.1	43.9
Physical & Sexual	1.13	22.4	19.8
Neglect	.32	18.3	57.2
Emotional	1.37	16.4	12

He was asked if he knew how many of these incidences were verified. He said APS is underfunded and it is hard to get proof. Ms. Thompson said that there are some statistics from Adult Protective Services. He said that there are statistics on the Adult Protective Services website. He also stated that the numbers are most likely higher than listed above.

Mr. Jordan stated that to address the problem they used some of the grant money for training: law enforcement (patrol), law enforcement (detectives), direct service professionals, prosecutors, judges, and cross-training. The trainings were well received. There is a real awareness out there and people are hungry for this information. We also sent three prosecutors and three judges to national trainings. There are 100 organizations that are all working together to address this issue. In the grant title it states ‘End Abuse in Later Life’ – the Elder Abuse Council (50 organizations) meet 1x/month. At the meetings there is an education component & then they discuss some of the barriers that are faced and how to respond appropriately. We have also had Adult Protective Services (APS)/Law Enforcement summits – both are working at investigating the adult abuse cases and need to work well together. There is no specific advocate that has been designated to elder abuse exclusively. We have interviewed professionals, survivors, and their families to see what is needed for elder abuse victims. It was always stated that victims need: 1) someone who can spend the time with them to help them navigate the system and be with them as they deal with the pain or loss and work through the situation, 2) 50-60 year olds need services, and 3) find more funding. Aging & Disability Services is currently providing advocacy and case management to survivors of elder abuse, neglect & financial exploitation.

Karen Heeney, Case Management Supervisor and Elder Abuse Grant Coordinator, ADS, works in the Case Management program for all of King County. A lot of the work is with Medicaid, Title 19 program (assess and provide in-home services to folks to keep them independent) and some in a discretionary program for those that are usually not on Medicaid or Title 19 who are 60 or older who have multiple needs and can’t manage the system on their own. Kathi Church had done that type of case management for 10 years. ADS modeled the grant application after the discretionary program so that we can meet directly with the victims and have that flexibility. There has to be some kind of active abuse component: physical, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, not just verbal abuse, clients are 50 and older. One person is doing all of this work. A small portion of the grant is for Ms. Heeney to coordinate and do outreach for the program. We meet with people who are over the age of 50 years and so far have had 43 referrals to the program. We do consultations for folks who are getting in-home services through other ADS case managers. ADS also does outreach and training to subcontractors such as Evergreen Care Network, CISC (Chinese Information and Service Center), AAEP (African

American Elders program, and Asian Counseling & Referral (ACRS). They work closely with APS, the Prosecutors Office and law enforcement. We do direct referrals from first responders. They can call Karen or go through Senior I & A.

Kathi Church, Elder Abuse Case Manager, ADS works directly with the victims. Most abuse occurs with people who are close or trusted by the victim. These elder victims are typically much more isolated. Ms. Church meets with victims, and can have a mental health assessment completed. She can develop a rapport with the victim so that they eventually realize that they shouldn't be putting up with the abuse. It takes time to work with each client and the funding is over at the end of 3 years . . . so sustainability is very important. She told of a couple of different elder abuse cases and how involved each one was. Seniors who are sexually assaulted don't want to admit that this has happened to them. The abusers typically are very good at what they do and prey on these isolated people. These victims are often times very savvy and bright people but are taken in by the expertise of the abusers. This program allows me to hang in there with the victim to get their needs met.

Ms. Robinson asked if they were aware of the Gatekeeper Program. We need to give people the ability to be more proactive. She asked how we could help them with further funding? They stated that any connections and letters of support would be appreciated. Mr. Merriman asked if they needed volunteers? It was stated that volunteers couldn't be used with the victims because of confidentiality but they could be used to get the education information out in the community. What is needed is to educate financial institutions, community centers, etc. on this very complex issue.

Ms. Rasnack thanked the presenters and told them to let us know if there was anything our group could do.

BREAK

Ms. Claire Petersky with Eastside Friends of Seniors was introduced to the group. She explained that their program serves the older population who need some help to remain independent. Every client maintains the desire to live at home without professional assistance. Her agency trains volunteers who provide services such as transportation, shopping, chores around the home, etc. The program is expanding west into the Bellevue area and there is already a client waiting list and volunteers lined up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outreach (reported by Mr. Megargel)

Next Thursday is the Farmers Market at First Presbyterian Church and we still need volunteers for the 3-5 or the 5-7 shifts. Let Cathy know if you can volunteer.

We will have some of the flyers for the "Silver Tsunami" at the Farmers Market booth and we will be sending the information for this event out to everyone.

Mr. Katz stated that members were invited to Rep. Reichert's office for a presentation of an award he is receiving on Wednesday, September 19th at 9:30 in Issaquah. If you can attend let Mr. Katz know.

Ms. VonWald said that the Senior Team beat the City Team in this year's softball game. She also said that the Crossroads Farmers Market on August 28th went very well. She thanked everyone for volunteering at the market. Today is the Chinese Information and Service Center event at North Bellevue Community Center, 10am-2pm.

Ms. Robinson asked if anything had been resolved about getting an accessible cart to use for people at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Ms. Kimball said she met with Nancy Kartes, Manager of the Botanical Gardens on August 23rd regarding getting a cart. She said that there is a risk management issue with motorized carts, but are working on getting wheel chairs that people can check out. In addition, there is an accessible guide to the gardens available. Right now there is not a plan to get a cart, Ms. VonWald stated that she would do some follow up. Ms. Robinson said she would contact San Juan Islands to see how they went about getting their carts.

B. Transportation/Housing (reported by Ms. Grote)

There was not a meeting in August. There is a training on September 13th from 12:30-2pm at First Presbyterian Church that Ms. VonWald sent out to everyone entitled "Training About Adult Protective Services" presented by Jeff Quigly, Adult Protective Services, King County. She also told everyone about "Scam Jam" that AARP is sponsoring at the Criminal Justice Center in Burien. Our next meeting is September 24th and you are all invited to attend. Ms. VonWald went to the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative meeting last week and stated that they have hired Jon Morrison Winters as the new staff liaison. There was a discussion about neighborhood connectors. This is a new thing and there is funding available to connect people to major routes and it will have fixed routes. There is funding available to do this throughout the city. The Transportation Committee needs to attend these meetings in order keep up with this project.

C. Advocacy (reported by Ms. Thompson)

We have a table at the Westminster Fair on October 20th and need volunteers to staff it.

"The Silver Tsunami" is on October 1st from 11-1pm at Mercer Island Community Center. Think about how we can publicize and get the word out about the event. Ms. Thompson stated that she hopes everyone from BNOA is able to attend. Registration is required online or by phone. The format will be: AARP/W4A PowerPoint on issues in Washington State for Seniors, Speaker, Q & A (depending upon the number of candidates attending). ADS and others are working to finalize the format for the event.

In regard to medical observation, CMS makes up regulations for Medicare. People need to send in statements re: medical observation to CMS. Ms. Robinson said this is a great issue to address but people need to understand the history of the issue and how the intent is not what it was intended to do. We need to have a thorough understanding of the issue. Ms. VonWald stated

that the BNOA agreed that they would work on getting the public information regarding observation status.

The Senior Lobby Conference is on October 26th in Tacoma and costs \$40 to attend. On November 7th there is the Elder Abuse Conference in Burien at the King County Prosecutors Office.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

A. Parks & Community Services Board – (Ms. Robinson reporting)

She said that they didn't have a meeting in August, but if anyone has any issues to bring up to the Parks & Community Services Board to e-mail her information.

B. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (reported by Berta Seltzer)

Discussed earlier in the meeting

C. Eastside Human Services Forum

Ms. O'Reilly was not present for an update.

D. Eastside Time Bank (Jeanne Grote reporting)

They did not have a meeting, no report.

E. Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (Ms. Seltzer reporting)

Ms. Seltzer stated that the group has figured out how to extend the funding for 6 months for the group that presented earlier in regard to elder abuse.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald stated that recruitment for new BNOA members is underway. There are two vacancies (Merle Keeney & Blake Werner's positions). The selection committee is Ms. Grote, Ms. Kimball, Ms. Seltzer, and Ms. Heyden. They will report back at the October meeting and in November the group will vote on new and continuing members.

- September 11th, Honoring our Elders Breakfast is at 8:00-10:00am at Crossroads Park. Everyone over 60 is invited.
- September 18th, Transit Master Plan meeting at 6:00-8:00 at Bellevue City Hall.
- September 19th, Falls Prevention Fair at North Bellevue Community Center
- September 20th, Home is Where the Heart Is at Westminster

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Zielasko stated that on Wednesday, September 19th is “Creating Elder Friendly Communities” at UW.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS - None

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

October - Transit Master Plan presentation by Franz Loewenherz

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.